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| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                               | 09/752,844             | SMITH, MALCOLM M.   |  |
|                               | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                               | Michael J. Moore, Jr.  | 2616                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/14/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,7,9,11,12,15,17-20 and 23-27 (renumbered 1-19, respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
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***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/5/2005 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner has considered the information disclosure statement.

***Drawings***

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: In Figure 1, twisted pair line 18 (disclosed on page 6, lines 4-26 of the specification) is not labeled.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims **1-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17-20, and 23-27** (*renumbered 1-19, respectively*) are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim **1**, *El-Batal et al. (U.S. 6,625,144)* teaches a DB-9 connector for RS-232 communications having a DCD line and an RTS line used for controlling access of a serial channel.

*El-Batal et al.* as well as the other prior art of record do not teach the assertion of the RTS line after a period of time from detecting the de-assertion of the DCD line, where the period of time comprises a propagation delay for signals transmitted on the twisted pair line and a random period of time after the propagation delay.

Regarding claims **2-4 and 9**, these claims are further limiting to claim **1** and are thus also allowable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claims **6, 7, 15, 19, 23, and 27**, *El-Batal et al. (U.S. 6,625,144)* teaches a DB-9 connector for RS-232 communications having a DCD line and an RTS line used for controlling access of a serial channel.

*El-Batal et al.* as well as the other prior art of record do not teach the assertion of the RTS line after a period of time from detecting the de-assertion of the DCD line.

Regarding claims **11 and 24**, *El-Batal et al. (U.S. 6,625,144)* teaches a DB-9 connector for RS-232 communications having a DCD line and an RTS line used for controlling access of a serial channel.

*El-Batal et al.* as well as the other prior art of record do not teach the assertion of the RTS line after a period of time from detecting the de-assertion of the DCD line, where the period of time comprises a propagation delay for signals transmitted on the twisted pair line.

Regarding claims **12, 17, and 18**, these claims are further limiting to claim **11** and are thus also allowable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claim **20**, this claim is further limiting to claim **19** and is thus also allowable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claims **25 and 26**, these claims are further limiting to claim **24** and are thus also allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ross (U.S. 6,400,725) and Shideler et al. (U.S. 6,625,163) are additional references considered pertinent to this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Moore, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3168. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00am - 4:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema S. Rao can be reached at (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael J. Moore, Jr.  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2616

mjm MM

*Seema S. Rao*  
SEEMA S. RAO 7/13/06  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800